From the INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

DE PENA, Alain IBM **IBM FRANCE** Direction de la PropriétéRANCE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPT NOTIFICATION CONCERNING INFORMAL COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE APPLICANT Intellectuelle F-06610 La Gaude FRANCE (PCT Rule 66.6) Date of mailing (day/nonth/year) 20.12.2004 **ACTION** Applicant's or agent's file reference TRANSMITTAL FOR INFORMATION FR920020033/CB International application No. International filing date (day/month/year) PCT/EP 03/07132 13.06.2003 Applicant INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION et al.

An informal communication took place on 06.12.2004, between the International Preliminary Examining Authority and the applicant / the agent.

A copy of the note on that communication (Form PCT/IPEA/428) is herewith transmitted for your information.

Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:



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PCT

Application No.:

PCT/EP 03/07132

Note on an informal communication by telephone with the Applicant

A copy of this note is being sent to the Applicant for information

Participants

Applicant:

International Business Machines Corporation

Representative:

Barnier, C

Examiner(s):

de Man, A

Summary of the communication

The representative was informed that, due to the passed deadline for the International Preliminary Examination Report, either a negative IPER could be issued directly, or a Written Opinion with a time limit of 1 month could be sent.

The representative inquired about the legal basis for presenting this option, and opted for the direct issue of a negative IPER.



06.12.2004

Date

de Man, A

Authorized officer of IPEA